



## Six Key Strategies

These strategies focus on how 21<sup>st</sup> CCLC programs can help students increase their literacy skills. Use the reflection questions to discuss where your program is in terms of implementing each strategy and write down ideas for improvement. Solicit your colleagues for suggestions!

### 1. Create an environment that facilitates literacy acquisition.

Assess the H.E.A.T. of your literacy environment. How does your program foster literacy with...

**Higher order thinking**, e.g. practice comprehension and analysis?

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**Engaged learning**, e.g. literacy activities students enjoy?

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**Authentic connections**, e.g. literacy learning relevant to student experiences and interests?

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**Technology?** e.g. access to computers and to the internet?

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Suggestions for improvement:

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### 2. Expose children to a wide variety of high-interest reading and writing materials.

Does your library or curriculum include fiction and non-fiction books, magazines, and blogs? Texts focusing on science, math, geography, literature, poetry, or psychology?

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Suggestions for improvement:

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### 3. Use project based learning to facilitate authentic connections between learning and life.

How does your program foster literacy with service learning or real world projects, e.g. organize a fund-raiser to benefit a charity, create a documentary related to a community issue?

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Suggestions for improvement:

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**4. Incorporate digital technology and other 21<sup>st</sup> Century learning tools.**

Has your program researched digital literacy opportunities or tools on the web? What are examples of digital technology and other 21<sup>st</sup> Century learning tools that you currently utilize in your program, e.g. audio or video recording devices, social media tools, iMovie, etc.?

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Suggestions for improvement:

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**5. Involve families in meaningful learning experiences.**

How does your program engage families in learning literacy in the home environment?  
How does your program communicate with and keep families informed?

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Suggestions for improvement:

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**6. Empower students through learning and celebrate success.**

What kinds of extra learning support or encouragement does your program give students who struggle with literacy? What are ways your program recognizes progress and achievement in literacy?

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Suggestions for improvement:

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